



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
EDMUND G BROWN JR., Governor

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CalVCP Regional Conferences to Feature Keynote Speakers Elizabeth Smart and Azim Khamisa

Sacramento, CA – The California Victim Compensation Program will present two regional conferences this fall focusing on strategic collaborations for reaching underserved victims of crime in the State of California.

The Northern California Regional Conference will take place on September 23 at the UC Davis Conference Center. The day will feature a keynote presentation from Elizabeth Smart, who was abducted in 2002 from her home in Utah while she slept and was held captive for nine months. She will share her incredible story of perseverance in the face of unimaginable adversity and discuss the **importance and process of recovery and not allowing ones past to dictate their life's future.**

On October 8, the Southern California Regional Conference will take place at UCLA. The keynote presentation will feature Azim Khamisa, founder of the TKF Foundation which focuses on stopping youth violence. Following the murder of his only son in 1995 through a gang-related incident, Khamisa chose the path of forgiveness and compassion rather than revenge, and this choice led to the establishment of the Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF). A renowned international speaker, Khamisa has collaborated with the White House, the Dalai Lama and many other organizations around the world.

"We look forward to engaging in dialogue with our conference participants and speakers as we discuss creative collaborations for the future," said Julie Nauman, Executive Officer of the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board.

Panel presentations at both conferences will discuss the following topics:

- Making the Criminal Justice System More Accessible to Underserved Victims of Crime
- Understanding the Culture and Needs of Underserved Victims
- Building Collaboration and Partnerships
- Breaking Down Barriers to Accessing Benefits

To register for the conferences, please visit the CA Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board website at <http://vcgcb.ca.gov/victims/conference2015/>.

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The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP) provides compensation for victims of violent crime who are injured or threatened with injury. Among the crimes covered are domestic violence, child abuse, sexual and physical assault, homicide, robbery, and vehicular manslaughter.

If a person meets eligibility criteria, CalVCP will compensate many types of services when the costs are not covered by other sources. Eligible services include medical and dental care, mental health services, income loss, funeral expenses, rehabilitation and relocation. Funding for CalVCP comes from restitution fines and orders, penalty assessments levied on persons convicted of crimes and traffic offenses, and matching federal funds.

For more information about victims' rights and services, visit CalVCP at calvcp.ca.gov.